**Coming Events**

**Week 7**
- Wednesday 11 March
  - P&C AGM & General Meeting 7.15pm in Mrs Phipps’ room – the new demountable
- Thursday 12 March
  - Selective High School Test

**Week 8**
- Monday 16 March
  - Interrelate Years 5&6
- Thursday 19 March
  - Harmony Day
- Friday 20 March
  - School Cross Country – Towradgi Park

**Week 9**
- Monday 23 March
  - Interrelate Year 6
- Wednesday 25 March
  - K-6 Assembly – 2pm

**Week 10**
- Monday 30 March
  - Interrelate Years 5&6
- Tuesday 31 March
  - Easter Hat Parade
- Wednesday 1 April
  - Gold Assembly 10.30
- Thursday 2 April
  - Last Day of Term

**Principal’s Message**

**P&C AGM & Meeting**
Tonight the P&C will hold their 2015 AGM and Meeting at 7.15pm in Mrs Phipps’ room – the new demountable. At this time all positions will be declared vacant and a new P&C Executive will be elected. The AGM will be followed by the March meeting. All families are most welcome.

**Harmony Day**
Each year Australia celebrates our cultural diversity on Harmony Day, traditionally this day is 21 March. However, Pleasant Heights Public School will celebrate on Thursday 19 March. Could all students please wear something orange on the day, to acknowledge this special day.

**State Swimmers**
Congratulations to all our students who participated in the South Coast Swimming Carnival on Monday. Special congratulations to Omar M who has been successful in going through to the state carnival for butterfly and to Dane C who has been successful on going through to the state carnival for backstroke.

An outstanding achievement Omar and Dane!

**Blog**
I have recently come across a wonderful blog “Creating a Learning Environment”, written by a NSW teacher – Kelly Disani, it has lots of sensible and practical advice for families with children at school. Please have a look http://creatingalearningenvironment.com

Have a good week

Lee Venables
Principal
The Premier’s Reading Challenge has now commenced and will finish on Friday 21st August, 2015.

Booklists for each stage, along with FAQs and other information can be found on the website below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total number of books to complete challenge</th>
<th>Minimum number of PRC books</th>
<th>Maximum number of personal choice books</th>
<th>PRC booklist selection</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>K-2</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>5</td>
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<td>3-4</td>
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<td>5-6</td>
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K-2 students will be sharing reading experiences of selected PRC books at school, with their class teacher and I will record their books online.

3-6 students are reading books in class and should borrow PRC books to read at home, either from PHPS library, or a local library. Students complete their own online reading record at home, using their DET username and password. Please ensure they all know these details or have a copy of their details for using at home. On their first login for 2015, students record their previous school, if applicable.

Recording your PRC Online:
Step 2: Logon
Step 3: Click on Student Reading Records at the top left of the page.
Step 4: Enter Details - It is very important that the PRC ID (book number), which is written on the top of the first page of the book, is entered in the box. Click on add.
Step 5: Log off each time the Reading Record has been updated.

NEW TECHNOLOGY MODEL AT PLEASANT HEIGHTS
BRING YOUR OWN DEVICE (BYOD)

Recent curriculum change with the implementation of the new NSW Syllabuses incorporating the Australian Curriculum require schools to provide greater opportunities for students to develop Information and Communication Technology (ICT) competence.

As many parents would be aware, last year to support this change, all students in the Primary classes at Pleasant Heights had access to Microsoft Surface RT tablets purchased by the P&C on a 2:1 basis. As a result, one tablet was shared between two students, and students were able to further develop information and communication technology (ICT) competence and creativity along with increased skills and processes in working technologically.

This year the Surface RT tablets that we currently have at school will be used by the Stage 3 students on a 1:1 basis, so all Stage 3 students will have access to a device for all their learning. This will significantly support students’ understanding and use of technology now and into the future as they will be required to integrate the use of technology as they prepare for High School.

Due to the ongoing maintenance required to support the large number of devices we currently have at school as well as cost, increasing student numbers and continual need for upgrade, it’s not possible to sustain this level of access to current technology on an ongoing basis into the future. Accordingly, we are unable to provide sufficient individual tablets for...
all students in the Stage 2 Primary classes in 2015. Our current school iPads and computers are being shared by the Infants and Stage 2 classes.

However, we are committed to the successful and purposeful use of technology for students in their learning at Pleasant Heights. Following the successful implementation of our Surface RT tablets in 2014, this year we would like to implement a trial of a Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) program at the school.

BYOD refers to technology models where students bring a personally owned device to school for the purpose of learning. A personally owned device is any technology device brought into the school and owned by a student (or the student’s family).

BYOD will commence in Term 2 in class 4S with the aim of extending the program further after an initial trial period.

Students in 4S will be asked to bring an iPad to school each day. The potential for this device is that it can be integrated into the classroom to meet the learning outcomes of any lesson and become an everyday functional and communicative educational tool. The iPad has an instantaneous start-up and is ready to use immediately, a long battery life, and is easily portable. In a classroom setting, there is essentially unlimited access to information, multimedia and learning activities. The iPad as a teaching resource, like all information technology, will ensure that students’ learning can be taken into the future.

WHAT IS BYOD?

There are different models of BYOD. Pleasant Heights Public School has chosen a BYOD model that will meet the needs of most families. We have made the decision to introduce 1:1 iPads to Year 4 in 2015 and students will be asked to bring their own iPad to school. The iPad must be able to connect to the school WiFi and have specific software or apps installed. Details about these will be outlined.

At Pleasant Heights Public School, we believe that all students have the right to access flexible and dynamic learning experiences to interest and challenge them, catering for diverse learning needs. The iPad is a small, yet significant learning tool which will further develop the capacity of the individual to create, collaborate, communicate and contribute.

WHY BYOD?

The school recognises the need to prepare our students for a rapidly-changing world, where technology plays a large role in our personal, social and professional lives. In 2015 your child can bring their own learning device to school to enhance and support their learning.

This is not a compulsory requirement. Your child will not be disadvantaged if you choose not to send a device to school. We have other technology that your child can access at times, however this is limited and is shared amongst many classes. The main goal of the BYOD initiative is that learning can be accessed anywhere, anytime with a 1:1 device and it will enhance their learning opportunities and experiences.
**CONCERNS FOR BYOD**

- Students’ current devices might not connect to school WiFi
- Battery might not last the school day
- Equity
- Safety and security
- Distractions

**RECOMMENDED DEVICES FOR BYOD**

Below are the devices that most students have found easiest to work with at school. These devices are recommended for students to bring to school because:

- they are easy to connect to the school WiFi
- other students and most teachers/staff are familiar with them

- there is a large range of easy-to-use and free software/apps that can be accessed at school
- they have an instantaneous start-up and can be ready to use immediately, a long battery life, and are easily portable.

**BENEFITS OF BYOD**

- Don’t have to use IWB as a whole class
- Students can move at their own pace
- Having access to unlimited resources on the internet
- Technology already part of students’ lives so should be part of school as well
- Technology makes learning fun and interesting
- Don’t have to “waste time” moving to computer rooms
- School currently does not have enough devices
- Students are more familiar with their own devices
- Students will be more organised with their work
- School work will be more accessible at home
- Allows students to keep up with technology
STUDENT RESPONSIBILITY OF DEVICES

In the BYOD program, security measures for safe storage are provided, but ultimately the device is the responsibility of the student. Students must:

- sign the **BYOD Student Agreement** with their parent before bringing their devices to school.
- ensure their devices are safe and secure at all times.
- keep their devices safe using carry cases, screen guards, etc.
- use devices according to school and NSWDEC policies. Conditions of the school’s Internet Use Agreement with students apply.
- use the device at the class teacher’s discretion and with the class teacher’s knowledge.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

**Q. What happens if my child’s device is lost or stolen?**
A. Any damage or loss to a device that a student brings to school will be the student’s responsibility. The school will not accept responsibility for any loss or damage. Families may choose to consider purchasing insurance and/or extended warranty for the device.

**Q. Can the device be charged at school?**
A. Most learning spaces do not have the capacity to charge devices. Students should make sure their devices are fully charged every day. It is recommended that devices should last 5 hours without being charged.

**Q. Will there be a place at school for devices to be stored when they are not being used?**
A. When students are not in class their devices should be stored in their bags in a safe place. They should not leave their bags unattended at any time. They should also not leave their bags in places where the device can be easily damaged.

**Q. Will there be an internet filter applied when the device is used at school?**
A. While at school, students will be restricted by the NSW Department of Education and Communities filtered internet service. All social media sites and inappropriate sites are blocked while students are at school.

**Q. Will I be able to put on my own apps or programs onto my device, other than the ones the school has asked for?**
A. Yes. Parents and students are allowed to install their own apps and programs on their devices. These are at the discretion of parents and students.

**Q. Do students still have to use exercise books at school?**
A. Yes. A device is another tool for learning just like all other equipment. Students will still be required to use exercise books and writing materials in addition to their device.

**Q. Do students have to bring their devices every day to school?**
A. Yes. The device is part of a student’s equipment set for learning. Students will be expected to bring their device fully charged to school every day.